



**Magistrates' Court Victoria**

**Practice Direction**

**No. 2 of 2012**

**Civil Mediation Programme**

Background

Practice Direction No. 6 of 2007 created a mediation programme for certain defended civil proceedings issued at the Court at Broadmeadows. Since then, the scope of the programme has expanded. The Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria provides the mediators. Since its inception, the programme has used two mediators for each proceeding. This has worked well. However, it is proposed to see whether a single mediator will be as effective as two. The purpose of this Practice Direction is to establish a pilot within the overall programme where certain civil proceedings are mediated by a single mediator.

Directions

1. From 3 February 2012, proceedings involving claims for damages arising out of motor vehicle accidents will be mediated by a single mediator in the following circumstances:
  - (a) the defendant or defendants admit negligence, leaving the extent of the plaintiff's damages in dispute;
  - (b) the amount of damages claimed is less than \$10,000; and
  - (c) the proceeding is issued out of the Court at Broadmeadows.
2. This Practice Direction commences on 6 February 2012 and will cease on 4 May 2012.

Ian L Gray  
Chief Magistrate  
**6 February 2012**